



COMMISSION NEWS

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION, 1200 W. WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

TO: EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS
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SCOTTSDALE WOMAN, COMPANY, ADMIT COMMITTING SECURITIES FRAUD, ORDERED TO PAY BACK \$390,000

PHOENIX – The Arizona Corporation Commission has ordered Mary Kersey, a Scottsdale, Arizona resident, and a company she formed, Successful Finance, Inc., to pay eight investors \$396,040 in restitution, as well as pay the State \$25,000 in administrative penalties. The case involved the sale of fraudulent promissory notes.

According to the Order, Kersey and Successful Finance raised over \$500,000 from eight investors from June 1995 through January 1996. She promised investors a safe, fully secured investment, including promising one investor that his investment would be secured by real estate. They gave investors fraudulent financial statements that showed Successful Finance had assets of \$896,000, when in fact it had none. Kersey and Successful Finance invested and lost the funds in high risk unsecured investments.

Kersey and Successful Finance consented to the order and agreed not to be involved in any future securities sales. Kersey, who also used the names of Mary Kerseyhood, aka Mary L. Hood, aka Mary Kersey-Hood, was licensed in Arizona as a securities salesperson until January 1996.

In taking this action, Commission Chairman Carl Kunasek emphasized that “the Corporation Commission will enforce the Securities laws and hold accountable anyone committing fraud.” Commissioner Irvin added: “When the Securities staff presented this case to the Commission, I heard the investigator say ‘never has a company been so

misnamed.’ Although we chuckled, the failure of Successful Finance to be even remotely successful is no laughing matter. This order will hold her accountable for restitution.” Commissioner Bill Mundell spoke of the seriousness of promissory note fraud saying “since coming to the Commission, I have seen too many cases like this. Promissory notes are dangerous territory for any investor. Unfortunately, there are some unscrupulous salespeople standing ready to take advantage of people’s trust. Defrauding Arizona investors will not be tolerated.”

Mark Sendrow, Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission’s Securities Division reminds investors that “promissory notes often are very risky investments and should be avoided unless the investor carefully investigates them.” Sendrow encourages the public to contact the Securities Division before making any financial commitment. The Division can be reached at (602) 542-4242 or toll free at 1-877-811-3878, or visit the Division web site at www.ccsd.cc.state.az.us.

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